

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 DHA-02 PC-01 /065 W

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P 090913Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5920

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY AFFAIR: KIM TAE-CHUNG, CHONG IL-KYONG,
YUN PO-SUN

REF: SEOUL 1727

1. AP AND UPI HAVE FILED EXTENSIVE STORIES ON PICK UP OF
KIM TAE-CHUNG AND WIFE AND DR. CHONG IL-HYONG. WIRE SERVICES
ALSO REPORTED AND EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT
YUN PO-SUN WAS QUESTIONED FOR SEVERAL HOURS BY POLICE
AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF MARCH 8.

2. AT 10:15 P.M. MARCH 8, KOREA OVERSEAS INFORMATION SERVICE
ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE:

BEGIN TEXT:

REMARKS BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE KOREAN OVERSEAS INFORMATION
SERVICE.

1. ON MARCH 8 IN THE AFTERNOON, MR. YUN PO-SUN WAS QUESTIONED BY
THE AUTHORITIES AT HIS HOME, WHILE MR. KIM DAE-JUNG AND CHUNG
IL-HYONG WERE TAKEN TO THE AUTHORITIES FOR INVESTIGATION,
RESPECTIVELY.

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2. THESE PERSONS ARE NOT IN CUSTODY NOR UNDER ARREST AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. THEY ARE UNDER SUSPICION OF AGITATING FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A ROUTINE RELIGIOUS SERVICE.

4. THE GOVERNMENT WILL GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM OF NORMAL RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE AS IN THE PAST. END TEXT.

RELEASE HAS NOT APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS NOR HAS ANY WORD APPEARED TO DATE IN PRESS OR ON RADIO/TV ABOUT INDEPENDENCE DAY SERVICE, ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OR DETENTION OF PERSONS INVOLVED. HOWEVER, OBLIQUE REFERENCES HAVE BEEN MADE TO RECENT DOMESTIC SITUATION. FACT THAT NDP MAKING ISSUE OF AFFAIR IS ALSO BOUND TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF IT.

3. ROKG IS FULLY AWARE OF SENSITIVITY IN US AND JAPAN CONCERNING DETENTION OF PERSONS INVOLVED WITH MARCH 1 EVENT, PARTICULARLY KIM TAE-CHUNG. KEY OFFICIALS AWARE OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STATEMENTS. IN PARTIAL RECOGNITION THIS SENSITIVITY, POINTS TWO AND THREE OF RELEASE APPEAR TO BE DESIGNED TO MAKE LEGAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN ARREST, CUSTODY, AND BEING TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING, STRESSING THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG AND CHONG IL-HYONG WERE TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING ON SUSPICION OF INVOLVEMENT IN MARCH 1 AFFAIR BUT ARE NOT IN FORMAL CUSTODY, NOR UNDER FORMAL CHARGES. WHEN ASKED FOR DEFINITION OF KIM AND CHONG'S STATUS, OFFICIAL AT JUSTICE MINISTRY'S PROSECUTION BUREAU CITED TO EMBOFF ARTICLES 200 AND 221 OF ROK PENAL CODE WHICH STATE SIMPLY THAT AUTHORITIES MAY REQUEST APPEARANCE OF SUSPECT OR PERSON OTHER THAN A SUSPECT TO APPEAR (BEFORE AUTHORITIES) AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

4. AS OF NOON MARCH 9, KIM TAE-CHUNG, MRS. KIM AND CHONG IL-HYONG HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED.
SNEIDER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PINT, KS, (KIM TAE-CHUNG), (CHONG IL-KYONG), (YUN PO-SUN)
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